

ALTHOUGH membership was cut by over two-thirds, Wycombe Wanderers Supporters and Social Club still managed to donate £1,500 to the football club, as was revealed at their annual meeting at Loakes Park on Thursday evening.

Chairman Mr. Ron Fisher told the meeting of 30 members that the formation of the Blues Social Club had produced severe repercussions for the Supporters Club. He reported that membership had dropped from 1,100 to 320.

Treasurer Mr. Jack Richardson reported a similar loss in the account for the year. The handing over of the bar to the Blues Social Club had reduced the Supporters Club's profits by £1,500, he said, although he later pointed out that this money was going to the parent club through another source.

Mr. Richardson completed his remarks by saying he could not see much hope for the future, with regard to continuing donations to the club.

Officers elected: president — J. Bayliss; chairman — R. G. Fisher, secretary A. Davies, treasurer — J. K. Richardson.

27 years service

AFTER 27 years' unbroken service to Wycombe Wanderers, Mr. Jim Rackstraw was made an honorary life member of the club at their A.G.M. on Tuesday.

Mr. Rackstraw, retiring from the committee, was thanked by secretary Bert Crump for his wonderful service to the club. In a short speech, Mr. Rackstraw said it was a "great honour from a great club."

WYCOMBE FINISH £438 IN THE RED

DESPITE a drop of almost £5,000 on gate receipts, Wycombe Wanderers finished the season with only a £438 deficit, it was announced at the club's annual general meeting at the Royal British Legion hall on Tuesday evening. This was due to donations from the Wycombe Wanderers Supporters Club, the Blues Development Fund and the Blues Social Club, which totalled £7,000.

Chairman Mr. Jack Smethurst told members that the club had economised all the way down and stressed the importance of cup ties. The rising cost of living, however, saw several items on the club's expenditure rise considerably.

Equipment was up considerably as were electricity, gas and the cost of maintaining the ground at Loakes Park. Income was understandably down after the club's moderate season on the field. The £10,525 for league and friendly gate receipts were down to £8131 and there was a similar loss on cup ties.

But the topic that caused most discussion was concerning vice-presidents. Mr. Jack Richardson, treasurer of the Supporters Club, asked why the club decided to disperse the vice-presidents last year. He felt the club had lost a certain amount of revenue from the move.

HIGH HONOUR

Replying, Mr. Smethurst said, "We felt that to become a vice-president of any organisation is a high honour. To become a vice-president at Wycombe Wanderers you paid an extra five shillings a season. This was an anomaly. We felt vice-presidents

should be invited as some kind of honour."

Some members felt the decision to disperse the vice-presidents and also the increase in gate charges should have been decided at the last A.G.M.

The general feeling among members was that the former vice-presidents had not been properly informed about the change.

On the subject of gate increases, Mr. Smethurst said the club had put up the prices in anticipation of V.A.T. and asked the question, "It is still cheap entertainment; are we charging too much for the entertainment being provided?"

Another question that arose was of the club's move to a new ground. The chairman told members that they had put in

an application for a site at Terriers, which as yet, had not been turned down by Wycombe R.D.C. Negotiations were still taking place but although many sites had been looked at, the club felt Terriers was the only one suitable. Mr. Smethurst added that ideally the club still did not want to move from Loakes Park.

Mr. Brian Lee, manager, answered several questions from the floor. One of the main topics was on publicity and press relations. There was criticism of the local press for lack of knowledge on the players during the close season.

Mr. Lee told members he did not reveal who was joining Wycombe to the press. "Players are free agents at this time and until they have actually played for

a club, they are not committed. The matter is in my hands and you cannot always believe what players say," Jack Smethurst supported the press and felt the Bucks Free Press was correct in their policy.

The question of permit players was raised but Mr. Lee felt they would be of little use to Wycombe. He thought that those who failed to make the grade in third or fourth division football "were not quite good enough for us."

He added that players who had been well paid in professional football were difficult to motivate in the amateur game and permit players would have to be replaced for the Amateur Cup competition, possibly disrupting the team.

Answering a query on publi-

cising forthcoming matches, Mr. Smethurst said that posters had already been acquired and would be circulated to members.

'GREATER EMPHASIS'

In a written report, Mr. Bert Crump, secretary, stated that the lack of success in major cup competitions was reflected in falling attendances. The formation of the new Social Club, however, had achieved a certain amount of success although "we still have a long way to go to bring ourselves up to the results obtained by some other Isthmian clubs. It is obvious that unless we are very fortunate we cannot survive on gates alone and greater emphasis is needed on improving this aspect of the club's affairs."

The club was thanked by a representative from the Wycombe Hospital Broadcasting Association for the broadcasting hut provided on the ground while the Association were also congratulated on their efforts last season.

Officers elected: (Re-elected) president: M. Seymour; chairman: J. Smethurst; secretary: B. Crump; treasurer: R. Lee; committee: C. Avery, J. Goldsworthy, R. Hart, G. Cox, P. Pearce, T. Thomas, H. Wharton, R. Williams (all re-elected). G. Roberts elected.

04/04/70
£3,500/70